and a proposal for construction of way-side facilities for bus passengers in Guwahati have also been received. Besides this, Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO) has reported to have sanctioned 5 urban infrastructure schemes for Guwahati, two of them are for improvement of water supply system, one for drainage improvement, one for road improvement and one for construction of commercial-cum-office complex.

Taking over of Kalkaji Temple

3201. SHRI SHIBU SOREN : Will the MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are seriously contemplating to take over the Kalkaji Temple in South Delhi and entrust the same to a Trust as was done with Vashno Devi shrine;

(b) if so, the details of the annual income of the KalkajiTemple along with the details of the amount spent annually for its development and upkeep;

(c) the details of the encroachments, unauthorised constructions and the number of Jhuggi Jhopri built up in and around the green belt of the Temple; and

(d) the action being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI JAGMOHAN) : (a) The Kalkaji Temple, which is visited by lakhs of devotees every month has had to face serious problems of inadequate infrastructure facilities, unauthorised construction, large scale misuse of premises including greens etc. To avoid any serious problem of public safety and security, the conditons in the premises need to be improved.

(b) No such details are available with Government.

(c) There are 5127 Jhuggis of eligible and ineligible squatters including commercial encroachments in and around the Kalkaji temple complex and its neighbourhood, including green belt.

(d) The matter is under consideration of the Government.

HUDCO Loan for Improvement of Road in Karnataka

3202. SHRI K. C. KONDAIAH : Will the MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has approached HUDCO for a loan to improve the roads leading to major tourist destinations

in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the amount of loan sought for;

(c) which are the roads proposed to be improved with the above loan; and

(d) what is the present position?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Rs. 70.00 crores.

(c) Not yet finalised.

(d) Does not arise.

Policy for Human Settlements

3203. SHRI R. S. GAVAI : Will the MINISTER OF URBAN EMPOLYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to formulate an overall policy for all human settlements in place of rural and urban areas in segments;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have also evolved any strategy for facing the problems connected with human settlements; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA) : (a) to (d) The National Housing & Habitat Policy of 1998 was laid on the Table of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha on 29th July, 1998. The National Housing & Habitat Policy envisages Governments role as an enabler rather than a builder. Government regulatory, technical and financial constraints facing the Housing Sector. This would help all sections of the Society to gain access to land, finance an technology to obtain shelter for themselves. Government will however, continue to intervene directly for the benefit of the poor and vulnerable sections of the society. The long term goal of this policy is to create surplus in housing stock either on ownership or rental basis. The state Governments are required to draw up their own action plans to address the housing problems in their states. Several steps including fiscal concession have also been initiated.